

January 2015



Missouri FSA Newsletter

Missouri Farm Service Agency

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Please contact your local FSA Office for questions specific to your operation or county.

Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) - First Deadline is Feb. 27th

Farm owners and operators with historic base need to choose between the new 2014 Farm Bill programs—ARC and PLC. The new programs are cornerstones of the commodity farm safety net, offering farmers protection when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices and revenues.

Now through Feb. 27, 2015, farm owners with base and planting history between 2009 and 2012 have a one-time opportunity to:

1. Maintain the farm's base acres through 2018
2. Reallocate base acres among covered commodities planted on the farm at any time during 2009—2012 crop years (excluding upland cotton bases).

*Note: Total current base on farm cannot increase or decrease.

Owners will also have the one-time opportunity to update their yields. This is the first time that many producers have been able to update yields since 1986. The updated yields will be calculated using 90 percent of the simple average of the 2008-2012 yields. This yield update is a certification process, therefore, FSA will not accept evidence of these yields. However, certified yields are always subject to spot check.

FSA has worked with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to make available certified yield data that producers can use to better calculate how the new ARC and PLC programs can offer the best protection against market swings.

ARC and PLC Resources

To help producers evaluate their options, web tools can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

In addition, educational meetings are occurring on an ongoing basis. Click [here](#) for a schedule of upcoming meetings. Also at www.fsa.usda.gov/mo are links to a recorded educational meeting that will provide information on ARC and PLC, including web tool use.

First Dairy Premium Payment Due

Attention dairy farmers who elected coverage under the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy)

Twenty-five percent of the total premium for MPP-Dairy is annually due on Feb. 1st. If not paid annually by Feb. 1, coverage will be automatically reduced to CAT level coverage (\$4 coverage level with 90 percent covered history) until the earlier of such time as the 25 percent minimum is paid or June 1. The remaining premium balance is due in full by June 1. New dairy operations are reminded to contact FSA within 30 days of starting to milk to enroll in MPP-Dairy.

Farm Loan Programs - Funding Available!

FSA makes and guarantees loans to family farmers and ranchers to promote, build and sustain family farms. FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers to start, purchase or expand their farming operation. FSA offers guaranteed loans, where the loan is made and serviced by a commercial lender and FSA guarantees the lender's loan against loss, or a direct loan made and serviced by FSA. Farm ownership loans are available to help purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, construct a new or improve an existing farm or ranch building, pay closing costs and pay for soil and water conservation and protection. Operating loans help to purchase livestock and equipment and pay for minor real estate repairs and annual operating expenses. Microloans are direct farm operating loans with a shortened application process designed to meet the needs of smaller, non-traditional, and niche-type operations.

FSA does have funding available. Interested in learning more? Contact your local FSA Office and ask for the Farm Loan staff.

Upcoming Livestock Disaster Assistance Deadline

Livestock producers are reminded that the Jan. 30, 2015, deadline to request assistance for losses suffered from Oct. 1, 2011 through Dec. 31, 2014, is fast approaching.

Applications for the Livestock Indemnity Program and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, restored by the 2014 Farm Bill resumed in April 2014, after having expired on Sept. 30, 2011. To date, more than 556,000 applications have been approved to assist farmers and ranchers in recovering from nearly three years of natural disasters.

The Livestock Indemnity Program provides financial assistance to eligible producers for livestock deaths. Losses can be caused by adverse weather, extreme temperatures, disease, or wildfires, or due to attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators.

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program provides compensation to livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire. Qualifying droughts are based on U.S Drought Monitor severity ratings, and qualifying fires are those occurring on rangeland managed by a federal

agency and normally permitted for grazing.

Local FSA county offices can provide additional information on the types of records producers will need to apply for assistance. Producers are encouraged to contact their county office ahead of time to schedule an appointment. Producers who already have appointments don't need to take any additional action to meet the deadline. FSA offices can be found at offices.usda.gov. To learn more about these FSA disaster programs, visit disaster.fsa.usda.gov.

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

Interest Rates and Dates to Remember

Selected Interest Rates for January 2015	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.625%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 30	Final date to sign up for the Livestock Indemnity Program for death losses occurring between Oct. 1, 2011 and Dec. 31, 2014.
Jan. 30	Final date to sign up for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program for 2011-2014 grazing losses.
Feb. 1	Deadline to pay 25 percent of the total premium due under Margin Protection Program (MPP)-Dairy
Feb. 16	George Washington's birthday. USDA Service Center closed.
Feb. 27	Final date to reallocate base acres and update yields in preparation for ARC & PLC programs.
Feb. 28	NAP application closing date for rice (<i>since the 28th falls on a weekend, applications will be accepted through 3/2</i>)

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